

Clinical Educator of the Year 2023

Dr Rael Codron



Dr Codron always finds time around his busy schedule to give advice to prevocational doctors, whether in medical education, training, or dealing with professional issues. His clear commitment to making Tennant Creek Hospital and health service an education institution means that trainees are drawn to working at the service at prevocational and registrar levels. This has created greater workforce sustainability into the future. It also means that he is approachable for any students or prevocational doctors who have questions, concern or are seeking guidance about their careers.

With a genuine interest in the career progression, Dr Codron takes a real interest in the overall development as a doctor and takes the time to discuss career path options and give training advice. By acting as a mentor to his trainees, he supports them with future careers in rural health. Dr Codron generously and approachably offers his time as a referee for trainees who have worked with him, and will go above and beyond to assist them in finding next roles which suit their long term career goals.

In addition to creating system level change, Dr Codron is also a brilliant teacher, drawing on his own diverse and interesting career experience in South Africa, working on cruise ships, and in paediatrics and anaesthetics. His broad knowledge enables him to create an on the spot presentations on any topic which is not only interesting but engaging and practical.

Dr Codron is a leader in the health service who sets an example of how to approach clinical medicine in an empathetic and efficient manner, getting the help to the people who need it in a way that is culturally safe, centred, and accessible.

In establishing the Barkly program, he has implemented a system of the Barkly Remote Indigenous Community Clinics Service (BRICCS), which sees Rural Generalists travel to small communities and outstations which would otherwise not have access to medical care. This opportunity for primary and preventative health care is crucial to slowing the progression of chronic diseases, with the ultimate goal of reducing the need for hospital admissions and improving the health and quality of life of these populations.

In addition to implementing the above program, Dr Codron has shared their success with a national audience to be replicated in other communities. He gives these presentations in collaboration with trainees to give them experience in conference preparation and presentation, further building their skills and confidence.

As the Director of Medical Services of the Barkly Region and a local clinician of many years, Dr Codron is passionate about improving health outcomes for his community, which suffers from the lowest life expectancy and some of the worst rates of alcohol related harms in the country. His establishment of a local sustainable health service for both inpatient and primary care is evidence of his commitment to the Barkly, constantly going above and beyond to deliver innovative health access solutions.